

Table of Contents
The Studies Act of 2009

Table of Contents	1
PART II. LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION	2
SECTION 2.1. The Legislative Research Commission may study the topics listed below.....	2
SECTION 2.44. Advancing Innovation in North Carolina (Queen)	2
SECTION 2.52. High-Speed Internet in Underserved Urban Areas (H.B. 595 – K. Alexander, Faison, Jones)	2
SECTION 2.53. High-Speed Internet in Rural Areas (H.B. 157 – Faison, Haire, Bryant, Gulley)	2
SECTION 2.54. Broadband Use (H.B. 283 – K. Alexander, Coates, Tillis, Faison; Harrison) –	2
PART VII. REVENUE LAWS STUDY COMMITTEE STUDIES	2
SECTION 7.6. Small Business Incentives for Job Preservation and Growth (H.B. 1598 – K. Alexander, Mackey, Faison)	2

Technology issues in The Studies Act of 2009

PART II. LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

SECTION 2.1. The Legislative Research Commission may study the topics listed below. When applicable, the bill or resolution that originally proposed the issue or study and the name of the sponsor are listed. Unless otherwise specified, the listed bill or resolution refers to the measure introduced in the 2009 General Assembly. The Commission may consider the original bill or resolution in determining the nature, scope, and aspects of the study.

SECTION 2.44. Advancing Innovation in North Carolina (Queen) – The Commission may study methods to implement the findings of the December 2008 report of the Office of Science and Technology of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, prepared at the direction of the North Carolina Board of Science and Technology, entitled "Advancing Innovation in North Carolina: An Innovation Framework for Competing and Prospering in the Interconnected Global Environment."

SECTION 2.52. High-Speed Internet in Underserved Urban Areas (H.B. 595 – K. Alexander, Faison, Jones) – The Commission may study the availability of high-speed Internet access in low-wealth areas of the State having a population of 100,000 or more according to the most recent federal decennial census.

SECTION 2.53. High-Speed Internet in Rural Areas (H.B. 157 – Faison, Haire, Bryant, Gulley) – The Commission may study the availability of high-speed Internet access in rural areas.

SECTION 2.54. Broadband Use (H.B. 283 – K. Alexander, Coates, Tillis, Faison; Harrison) – The Commission may study administrative actions that can result in immediate promotion of broadband access and usage within the State. The Commission may make specific recommendations as to how North Carolina can take advantage of opportunities for and eliminate any related barriers to broadband access and adoption. The Commission may also study broadband account usage limits and tiered pricing based, in part or in whole, on data consumption, and penalties and fees for exceeding those limitations.

PART VII. REVENUE LAWS STUDY COMMITTEE STUDIES

SECTION 7.6. Small Business Incentives for Job Preservation and Growth (H.B. 1598 – K. Alexander, Mackey, Faison) – The Committee may examine the following issues:

- (1) The feasibility of programs for small businesses with annual gross receipts of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) or more and less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) that would provide low-interest loans for any of the following purposes:
 - a. Purchasing real or business property used to maintain or expand workforce.
 - b. Improving real property, whether owned or leased, to make it more energy efficient.
 - c. Acquiring broadband connectivity and technology to improve efficiency of business operations.

Technology issues in The Studies Act of 2009

- (2) The feasibility of programs for small business with annual gross receipts of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or more and less than one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) that would provide funds for any of the following purposes:
 - a. Providing working capital grants.
 - b. Providing low-interest construction loans for the purchase of real or business property used to maintain or expand the workforce.
 - c. Improving real property, whether owned or leased, to make it more energy efficient.
 - d. Acquiring broadband connectivity and technology to improve the efficiency of business operations.
 - e. Any other legitimate business purpose designed to improve business efficiency.
- (3) The feasibility of microloans and microgrants to small businesses with annual gross receipts of less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for any legitimate business purpose.
- (4) Any other issue the Committee deems relevant.